

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 3-4 and 9-10 have been withdrawn from consideration. Applicants amend claims 1-2 and 7-8 for clarification, and refer to Figs. 5-6 and their corresponding description in the specification for an exemplary embodiment of and support for the claim amendments. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-2, 5-8, and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,550,805 to Takatori et al. Applicants amended claims 1-2 and 7-8 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited prior art reference. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claims 1-2 and 7-8, Takatori et al. describe a self-healing network where each message includes both destination node identification (bits 5-8 of byte M1) and source node identification (bits 1-4 of byte M2), as shown in Fig. 8 of Takatori et al. Takatori et al., therefore, fail to disclose,

"generating a message containing
a value specifying one of a short path and a long
path, and
one or more identifiers identifying only a source
node of said message when the path for said message is a short
path and identifying only a destination node of said message when
the path for said message is a long path; and
transmitting said generated message," as recited in claim 1.
(Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 2 are patentable over Takatori et al. for at least the above-stated reasons. Claims 7 and 8 include features similar to those of claim 1 cited above and are, therefore, patentable over Takatori et al. for at least the same reasons.

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With respect to claims 5-6 and 11-12, the Examiner and Applicants' undersigned representative, Mr. Dexter Chang (Reg. No. 44,071), conducted a telephone interview on November 3, 2005. Applicants and Mr. Chang thank the Examiner for her time and consideration for such an interview.

During the interview, Mr. Chang pointed out to the Examiner that Takatori et al. do not disclose first and second identifiers assigned to each node. Mr. Chang also pointed out that Table 1 on col. 4 of Takatori et al. does not list node numbers, but instead, lists switching commands for bits 1-4 of byte M1. In any case, with reference to Fig. 8, Takatori et al. describe messages that include destination node identification (bits 5-8 of byte M1) and source node identification (bits 1-4 of byte M2). These node identifications, however, are based on one set of identifiers for the nodes—each node in the system described in Takatori et al. is assigned one four-bit node number (or "identifier"). In other words, messages use the four-bit node number ("identifier") assigned to each node for identifying the source and destination nodes. Takatori et al. do not describe assigning any identifier other than the four-bit node number to each of the nodes.

As such, Takatori et al. do not disclose,

"wherein a first node identifier and a second node identifier are assigned to each node, and each node is uniquely identified by a combination of the first node identifier assigned to said node and two second node identifiers respectively assigned to two nodes adjacent on both sides thereof, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a message containing one of the first and second node identifiers assigned to a destination node of said message, the other one of the first and second node identifiers assigned to a source node of said message, and a value specifying a short path or a long path; and

transmitting said generated message," as recited in claim 5.
(Emphasis added)

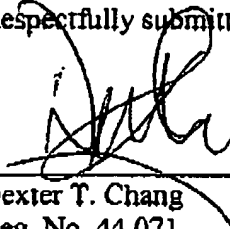
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5 and 6 are patentable over Takatori et al. for at least the above-stated reasons. Claims 11 and 12 include features similar to those of claim 5 cited above and are, therefore, patentable over Takatori et al. for at least the same reasons.

The above statements on the disclosure in the cited reference represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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